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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 EUR-12 /136 W
----------064038 211303Z /53
R 210857Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9743
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 24039

E.O.11652:NA
TAGS: ETRD, TH
SUBJ: RTG DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE FINDS BILATERAL US-RTG TREATY AN OBSTACLE TO JOINING GATT AND MAKING TARIFF CONCESSIONS TO THE U.S.

REF: USMISSION GENEVA 12219

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED - DEPUTY COMMERCE MINISTER PROK AMARAND WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE ASEAN CONFERENCE IN THE U.S. VIA GENEVA, BRIEFED THE LOCAL PRESS ON HIS TALKS IN GENEVA AUGUST 17. THE BANGKOK POST DIRECTLY QUOTED PROK AS FOLLOWS:

2. "ON BEING A GATT MEMBER, THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT THAILAND HAS WITH ONE MEMBER OF GATT WILL ALSO BE APPLICABLE TO OTHER MEMBERS. CURRENTLY THAILAND HAS AN EXCLUSIVE BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. BUT IN BEING A MEMBER OF GATT THAILAND WILL HAVE TO GIVE THESE PRIVILEGES TO OTHER MEMBERS AS WELL."

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3. "THE US HAD ASKED THAILAND TO REDUCE TARIFFS ON SOME IMPORTS FROM THE US SO AS TO SET A TREND FOR THE US TO REQUEST REDUCTIONS FROM OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE EXISTING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THAILAND SUCH AS THE TRADE AND PAYMENTS DEFICITS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THIS REQUEST." END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE - IN A SUBSEQUENT CALL AT THE MFA ON OTHER MATTERS, EMBOFF INQUIRED ABOUT THE BASIS OF THE PROK STATEMENTS, SINCE THE EMBASSY VIEW THERE IS NO APPARENT CONFLICT BETWEEN THAILAND JOINING GATT AND THE BILATERAL TREATY. MFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT PROK WAS IN ERROR ABOUT THE TREATY AND THAT HIS STATEMENTS ABOUT IT HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED BY THE MFA. AS FAR AS THIS OFFICIAL WAS CONCERNED PROK WAS STATING A PERSONAL VIEW. HE STATED HE WAS GOING TO RECOMMEND TO FORMIN UPPADIT THAT HE CORRECT PROK'S MISINTERPRETATION OF THE TREATY'S APPLICABILITY.

5. THIS OFFICIAL, WHO HANDLES MTN AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, TOOK VIEW THAT RTG-US PROBLEMS IN THE MTN WERE PERHAPS MORE PROCEDURAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE, I.E., IT IS A NEGOTIATING GAME TO DETERMINE THE PRECEDENCE IN WHICH THE MUTUAL CONCESSIONS ARE GOING TO BE MADE. ALTHOUGH THERE IS CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE TO MAKING THE CONCESSIONS AS WELL AS TO JOINING GATT, THIS OFFICIAL SAW NO MAJOR PROBLEMS PREVENTING THE U.S. AND THAILAND REACHING AN AGREEMENT IN GENEVA AND HE BELIEVES THAILAND WILL EVENTUALLY ACCEDE TO THE GATT. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TARIFF CONCESSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780840/aaaabgqg.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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